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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,945	05/11/2001	Michael L. Imundo	10420/15	6611

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EXAMINER

COZART, JERMIE E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3726

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/853,945

Applicant(s)

IMUNDO ET AL.

Examiner

Jermie Cozart

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HC

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-16, and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 May 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: the station 178. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:
(1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;

- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richter.

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Richter discloses a method for repairing a sheet metal portion (4) of a structure (2), wherein a multi-axis digital measuring device (10) is oriented. The device (10) captures the image of the structure in at least two dimensions in order to reproduce a sheet metal repair part (4'). Richter also discloses measuring at least a portion of the structure (2) with the digital imaging device (10), saving the data generated in measuring the structure, and using the data to manufacture a sheet metal repair part (4'). See column 4, lines 38-59 for further clarification.

Regarding claims 2 and 13, Richter discloses adding additional data for use in automatically manufacturing the repair part (4'). The nominal geometry data of the blade (1) was at some point added to the computer in order to serve as a reference data when being compared with image data for the damaged part to be repaired.

Regarding claims 3 and 14, Richter discloses planning a process to manufacture the repair part (4'), which essentially are the steps used to create the repair part.

Regarding claims 4 and 15, Richter discloses installing the sheet metal repair part (4'). See column 5, lines 31-36 for further clarification.

Regarding claims 5 and 16, Richter discloses orienting the device (10) with respect to the structure (2) via an orienting feature of the structure such as a feature (tip portion) of the structure.

Regarding claims 7 and 18, Richter discloses automatically manufacturing comprising a multi-step process for material moving and material shaping. See column 4, line 53 – column 6, line 14.

Regarding claims 9 and 21, Richter discloses translating the data from a first format to a second format, in this case translating the image data to a corresponding output for the CNC control unit (12). See column 4, lines 48-52 for further clarification.

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Richter discloses a data manipulation step consisting of transferring data by delivering the data from the computer (11) to the CNC control unit (12). See column 2, lines 30-33 for further clarification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 8, 11, 19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richter in view of Flint.

Richter discloses all of the claimed subject matter except for transferring the repair part from a first workstation to a second workstation, or mounting a laser-scanning device.

Flint discloses transferring an unfinished part (PFH) from a first workstation (second support) to a second workstation (third support) in order to build a duplicate product and match the color of the duplicated part to the original part, and mounting (meaning to arrange for use, see Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, tenth edition) a laser-scanning device, in order to record the topography of the object being scanned to produce a digitized signal. The laser is used in combination with another imaging device such as a camera. See Figure 1 and columns 2 and 3 for further clarification.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to transfer unfinished repair part of Richter from a first workstation to a second workstation for additional finishing steps, in light of the teachings of Flint, in order to more effectively build a duplicate product and match the color of the duplicated part to the original part. It would also have been obvious to mount a laser-scanning device for use in the repair process of Richter, in light of the teachings of Flint, in order to accurately record the topography of the object being scanned to produce a digitized signal.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 6 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

References Cited

8. The references cited on the attached PTO-892 are cited to show manufacturing repair parts, specifically the highlighted portions of the attached references.

Conclusion

9. Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, should be directed to the group clerical personnel. In as much as the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining groups, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information. M.P.E.P. 203.08. The Group clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1148.

10. If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers or other general questions should be directed to Tech Center 3700 Customer Service at (703) 306-5648, or fax (703) 872-9301 or by email to CustomerService3700@uspto.gov.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermie Cozart whose telephone number is 703-305-

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0126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on 703-308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

Other helpful telephone numbers are listed for applicant's benefit.

Allowed Files & Publication	(703) 308-6789 or (888) 786-0101
Assignment Branch	(703) 308-9723
Certificates of Correction	(703) 305-8309
Drawing Corrections/Draftsman	(703) 305-8404/8335
Petitions/Special Programs	(703) 305-9285
Terminal Disclaimers	(703) 305-8408
PCT Help Desk	(703) 305-3257

If the information desired is not provided above, or a number has been changed, please call the general information help line below.

Information Help line
Internet PTO-Home Page

1-800-786-9199
<http://www.uspto.gov>


Jermie Cozart
Examiner
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JC 
June 2, 2002